

For Immediate Release

Thursday, May 13, 2010

Contact: Dan Williamson, Mayor's Office, 645-5300

Mayor's Green Initiatives Honored At SWACO Emerald Awards

Mayor Michael B. Coleman was honored at SWACO's 5th annual Central Ohio Emerald Awards luncheon Thursday, receiving the Chairman's Award for his numerous environmental initiatives. Mayor Coleman was recognized for greening the Columbus fleet, committing to the construction of green buildings, his KickButt Columbus litter cleanup, leading the Big Darby Accord and promoting bicycling and other alternative transportation.

"I am humbled by this honor, and sincerely thank SWACO for recognizing the City of Columbus' commitment to a greener way of life," Mayor Coleman said. "Getting green is not only good for the planet, but it's also good for saving money, creating jobs, and improving our overall quality of life."

Mayor Coleman's GreenSpot program received the Environmental Education Award. GreenSpot engages residents and businesses by issuing window decals to identify environmentally friendly locations. Currently, there are over 1,600 certified GreenSpot areas, and the free program is now being offered to anyone in Central Ohio.

E3: Columbus, a partnership with American Electric Power, TechSolve and the federal government, received the Innovation Award. E3 is designed to offer solutions for improved sustainability and is expected to be replicated across the country.

SWACO's 5th annual Central Ohio Emerald Awards luncheon honoring environmental excellence was held on Thursday at the Aladdin Shrine Center at Easton.